(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-US Technology Cooperation

1787. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-US technology cooperation deal, including high-tech space launch equipment, civilian nuclear energy and missile defence equipment and technology, has been under negotiations;

(b) if so, the agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, if any, has been signed; and

(c) what action has been and is being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India and the United States are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on expanding bilateral cooperation in a number of areas in pursuit of the vision articulated by the Prime Minister and President Bush to qualitatively transform the India-U.S. relations. These areas include civilian space, civilian nucleare energy, high tecnology and missile defecne. Besides having discussions at the political level, the two sides have also established a bilateral High Technology Coopeation Group that held its second meeting in New Delhi on November 20, 2003. This is the first such group that the United States has set up with any country. Although no Memorandum of Understanding has been signed so far, these discussions have led to a considerable progress in deepening mutual understanding on these issues.

American help to India to fight against insurgency

1788. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States has offered material assistance to India to fight insurgency in difficult terrain in Kashmir and North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?